

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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WILLIAM A. RITSCHER, Jr.

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1905.

Personal Property.

The time is near at hand for the levying of the tax assessment for the current fiscal year. In the discussion of the tax question in Newark and other municipalities, the matter of assessment of personal property is given unusual prominence and is going to be an important feature in the tax levy in those places. There is going to be a large increase in the assessment of personal taxes. Many people who have heretofore escaped taxation are going to be assessed, and some who have heretofore been assessed ridiculously low on their personal holdings are going to be increased. Bloomfield is no exception to the municipalities in which the matter of personal property assessment has not received due and proper attention.

The neglect is in part due to the system regulating the assessment and collection of personal property tax. The custom has been to send out personal property blanks for the people to fill in. In one respect the law makes holders of personal property their own assessors, and the privilege is sadly abused.

Out of several thousand blanks sent out, only about six per cent. are returned in the manner required by law, and as a consequence the application of the personal property assessment has been limited. Last year there was the usual meagre return of the blanks, but the assessors arbitrarily applied an extended scope of the personal property tax.

The extension of the tax has been severely criticised and has also been more or less approved. Some people held that rent-payers should be absolved from direct taxation because they indirectly paid the tax on the realty owned by their landlords. That is a favorite line of argument with tax shirkers and there is some logic in it because it cannot be denied; but what a landlord always charges interest, taxes and insurance to the maintenance account of his property?

On the other hand, those who approved the extended application of the personal tax pointed to the free gift of schools as an ample justification of it. Opinions may differ about the merits and demerits of personal tax, but it is a certainty that there is going to be an increase of taxation along that line, and Boards of Assessors in every municipality are going to be compelled to apply arbitrary methods of assessing that class of property. The plan of letting the people do their own assessing in the matter of personal property has failed. In but few cases is any attention paid to the blanks, and it appears like a waste of time and money in preparing them and distributing them.

Town Appropriations.

Town officials invested with the power of making the appropriations that go in the tax levy this year should not forget the army of six hundred aggrieved taxpayers who appealed for redress to the Commissioners of Appeals last fall. Those people want lower valuations, and in the large majority of cases their request was granted. If appropriations are increased all along the line in the same proportion that the Board of Education has asked for, there must of necessity be a large increase in valuation or the tax rate must be increased. There was a popular revolt against valuations last year and among the applicants were town officials. The experience of last year should not be without effect upon the appropriation makers this year. The aim should be to keep down appropriations in order to decrease the tax rate.

Limited Franchise.

The Board of Trade recently went on record in favor of limited franchises. It may possibly turn out that the Great Notch Water Company may require a franchise to lay water mains in the streets of this town. If the Council acts in accord with present public sentiment in regard to franchises, the Great Notch Water Company will get only a limited franchise.

Conspicuous caution people (three) growing trouble by borrowing (three) cooking utensils. In (three) this trouble, but enter (three) said in a complete sup- (three) of the tidy housewife.

THE DIAMOND TREE.

A Plant Whereon It is Alleged the Precious Stones Grow.

"I haven't a diamond tree," said the jeweler. "Smith, over the way there, has one, though. At least, so I've been told."

"What is a diamond tree?"

"It is a tree where diamonds grow, of course."

"No, seriously. What is it?"

The jeweler smiled.

"Well," he said, "a diamond tree is a swindle, a very profitable swindle, and one that can be carried on forever with mighty little risk of detection. I'll explain it to you."

"I am a jeweler and you bring me a diamond ring for repairs. I take the diamond out of your ring and put back in its place a similar diamond that is a little, a very little, smaller. You naturally don't discover the trick that has been played on you."

"The same day a brooch is brought to me, and since the central stone of the brooch is a little larger than your diamond, I get rid of yours and keep the bigger gem. In this way, four or five times in one day, I make diamond exchanges, keeping always a better stone than I part with."

"On good diamond trees diamonds as small as pin heads have been known to grow to the size of peas in two days. A good tree, too, won't have only one diamond growing on it at a time. A dozen stones or more will be simultaneously increasing in size and value as the days pass."—Chicago Chronicle.

MATCHING SHADES.

Not to Purchase and Use the Goods, but to Dodge Them.

Before trying to match the sample of silk the clerk asked:

"Is this a piece of something you want or something you don't want?"

"Something I want, of course," replied the customer, with asperity. "You don't suppose, do you, that I would go to all this trouble for a thing I can't use?"

"Some folk do," said the clerk. "I've met a number of them. The first woman I ever saw with that kind of bee in her bonnet had a square inch of blue silk that she wanted me to match. The scrap of silk was so small that it was hard to make comparisons, but after hauling down half the blue bolts on the shelves and running to the door several times to test the color in broad daylight I found the exact shade."

"How many yards do you want, madam?" I asked.

"Oh," said the woman, "I don't want any. Almost any other piece will do. That particular shade is very unbecoming. I just wanted to make sure that I don't get it, that's all."

The customer laughed. "What did you say?" she asked.

"I'd rather not tell," said the clerk. "Anyhow, since then I have been cautious. Before matching a sample now I inquire as politely as possible into a customer's intentions. If it's a case of 'don't want' I don't hurt myself matching the shade."—New York Press.

Napoleon and Mothers.

A charming story is told of Napoleon which illustrates well his reverence for mothers, whom he rightly regarded as the "makers of men." When his army lay at Boulogne an English sailor who had been taken prisoner tried to escape on a rude sort of skiff which he had contrived with bits of wood and the bark of trees. Hearing of the poor fellow's unsuccessful attempt, Napoleon had him brought into his presence, and he then inquired whether the man had really intended to try to cross the channel in such a frail little boat. The sailor replied that he had meant to try in order to see his mother, who was old and infirm. "You shall see her," said Napoleon, "and take her this money from me, for she must be a good mother to have such an affectionate son."

The Hedgehog's Frown.

A hedgehog curls itself up by a frown—that is, by muscles like those which produce a frown—and it frowns severely or gently, according to circumstances. If it is poked hard it "sighs" itself tighter. If really hurt it frowns into a tight ball. The prickles can be erected in a measure, though as they point all ways this is not needed. They are as sharp as needles. We have only known one dog, a large black and white setter, which would deliberately bite a hedgehog till it killed it. But this dog was quite mad and shared some of the anaesthesia common to certain lunatics.—London Spectator.

Books in the Home.

Some curious remarks are sometimes overheard at the counters of public libraries. At Hull a young girl was heard to whisper to her sister: "Don't get one of Miss Braddon's books. Ma will want to read it, and we shall have to wash up the supper things." In another case a boy went boldly up to the counter and said: "A book, please. Anything will do; it's for father."—Westminster Gazette.

He Was Home Early.

Mr. Newed (two weeks after marriage)—Don't sit up for me tonight, dear, as I may be detained downtown until after midnight. Mrs. Newed—Oh, that'll be all right. By the way, in case you should return before I do, kindly leave the gas burning in the hall, will you?

All "Sticks."

Manager—There wasn't a stick left after the fire in my theater. Sympathizer—What? Do you mean to say that all the members of your company were burned to death?

When a woman begins to watch attentively a man's acts, gestures and speech, you may be sure she has begun either to love or to hate him.

Dinner to Judge Skinner.

A dinner which was given at the Essex Country Club on Friday night last by Mr. John B. Hardin, in honor of Judge Alfred F. Skinner of the Court of Common Pleas, was described by those who participated as the most brilliant occasion of the kind they had ever attended. The guests of Mr. Hardin who were seated at an oval table in the club's dining-room were as follows: Judge Alfred F. Skinner, Justice J. Franklin Fort, Justice J. Swayze, Attorney-General Robert H. McCarter, Circuit Judge Frederic Adams, Prosecutor Henry Young, Congressman R. Wayne Parker, former Attorney-General Thomas N. McCarter, former Prosecutor Chandler W. Riker, Judge Thomas J. Lintott, Judge Thomas L. Raymond, Judge Charles B. Storrs, former Judge Frederick F. Guild and Messrs. John O. H. Pitney, Edward Q. Keasbey, Louis Hood, Percy Jackson, Wallace M. Seudler, Charles M. Lum, Jay Ten Eyck, William T. Hunt, Sherrerd Depue, F. T. Johnson, Edward Kenney and Chauncey G. Parker.

There were no formal toasts, but remarks were made by Judge Skinner, Justices Fort and Swayze, Attorney-General McCarter, Congressman Parker, Judge Adams, Prosecutor Young, Judge Storrs, Mayor Kenney and William T. Hunt. All of the guests except the last named are lawyers. The speeches were quite informal and were frequently interrupted, but many of them were remarkable for wit and grace. The tributes paid to Judge Skinner were of the warmest nature. Both in the expressions of admiration for his course in judicial office and for his personal character. The dinner was notably elegant.

When Judge Skinner began his political career as a member of Assembly the CITIZEN predicted a useful, successful and honorable career for him, and intimated that some day the Republican party would be pleased to tender him its nomination for the high and honorable office of Governor of the State of New Jersey. Mr. Skinner at that time gently took the CITIZEN to task for its optimistic outburst. The indications are that the CITIZEN was not unduly enthused.

Judge Skinner has certainly made an exemplary public official in every office he has been called upon to fill. His career has been a useful, successful and honorable one, and the possibility of his being called on to be his party's standard bearer for the highest office in the State is fast approaching a reality.

County Map.

It is understood that in the near future County Supervisor Johnson will recommend to the Board of Freeholders that the proper steps be taken to prepare and publish a map of Essex County. There is not an official map of the county, extant that is up-to-date because of the many changes in the political geography of Essex that have occurred through annexation or other processes during the last five years.

It is interesting to note that since the last county map was prepared Clinton Hill and Clinton Township have become a part of Newark, Caldwell Township has been split up into four municipalities, Glen Ridge has split off from Bloomfield and become an independent borough, and one of the most important changes of all, Vallisburgh has been annexed to Newark.

There has been much interest evinced of late in the question of securing an official map of the county that would show the territorial divisions properly. Business men and owners of property are anxious for an authentic reference map, and for those who desire to become familiar with the county's highways, for road driving, etc., the inability to secure accurate maps has been a source of annoyance.

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Polish Celebration.

The Polish residents of the town will celebrate the 114th anniversary of the adoption of the Polish Constitution today with special services in St. Valentine's Church. In the evening there will be a street parade, starting from the church to Met's hall. Five organizations will take part. They will be the Polish Red Uians, St. Valentine's Society, Harmonia Society and Men's Rosary Society of this town and a society from Orange Valley. At the hall addresses will be made by Father Ivanow, and there will be singing by Polish children.

PROTECT your securities and valuable papers against FIRE and BURGLARS by renting a box in the Safe Deposit Vaults of The Bloomfield National Bank. Boxes to rent at \$4.00 per year and upwards.—Adv.

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The Dessert—ad on another page tells how.

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When the driver comes back with the coal because you did not order the right size, they say the coal man swears.

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